

The Examiner states that Hudson discloses a solution including an oxidizer, a complexing agent and a passivating agent. Additionally, the Examiner contends that Hudson teaches using a CMP solution with no abrasive particles. However, the Examiner notes that Hudson fails to teach using all three agents in one solution. The Examiner then combines Hudson with Kaufman, which discloses a CMP slurry including all three agents of the instant claims. The Examiner states that the motivation to combine Hudson with Kaufman is that Hudson teaches that a known CMP solution with the particles removed may be used.

However, Hudson does not teach that any known CMP slurry with the particle removed may be used as a solution. Hudson teaches that the planarization liquid may be a conventional CMP slurry with abrasive particles and chemicals that remove material from the surface of the wafer, or it may be a solution without abrasive particles. (Column 1, lines 19-23, emphasis added.) Hudson does not teach that all CMP solutions may be used without abrasive particles. Hudson describes one example of a conventional slurry with abrasive particles and an oxidizer element, which is modified by removing the abrasive particles. (Column 4, lines 41-49.) However, no mention is made that every conventional CMP slurry could be so modified. Therefore, there is no motivation for one of skill in to modify the teachings of Hudson by using a conventional CMP slurry as taught in Kaufman.

The rejection of claims 16-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hudson in view of Kaufman should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Allowance of claims 16-35, at an early date is solicited.

October 17, 2002

Date

Respectfully submitted,

By: Colene H. Blank

Colene H. Blank, Reg. No.: 41,056

Telephone No.: 651-737-2356

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
P.O. Box 33427
St. Paul, MN 55133-3427
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833

EL596980067US